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COLBY FAMILY

BY

JAMES W. COLBY

REFERENCE
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"COLBY FAMILY"

By James W. Colby

Mr. J.W. Colby in his "Colby Family" suggests that the earliest ancestors of the Colby family were of Danish descent, and that they immigrated to the shores of England before the time of Christ, and that the place where they settled was called "Coldby" (meaning cold-town or hill-town) which was probably the name of their home in Denmark.

Surnames were first assumed in France near the year 1000. Before that time only families of renown could trace their lineage by the district historical path they left behind.

When the Normans came across the channel from France to England under William the Conqueror in 1066, they brought the new fashions of naming a rich man from his property, and a poor man from his trade or appearance.

Thus one who lived at Coldby was called "de of Coldby" not as a name, but only to place him. Eight hundred years ago, when each man had only a single name, there was a prosperous country gentleman in England called "Pagan". He built a beautiful church (which is still standing) and was owner of half a dozen small parishes, each consisting of a "Manor" and its village of working people. It is probable that Pagan rebuilt the ancient Manor house of "Oldstead Hall" at Coldby, so that it became the home of his family for several generations. Little is known of the old Manor house except its name.

Mr. J.W. Colby states that "a friend has explored the Colby village and is convienced by the moat, which is still visible, and by other landmarks, that the present Manor house stands on the very site of the oldest one. Moats have not been built since 1400. The old brick house destroyed by fire about a century ago, was without doubt very

ancient, but there were no brick houses in Pagan's day, nor for long after. So the moat was around a still older house.

Pagan had four children, called Robert, Warine, Simon and Cristine de Colebi. "We next trace the line by a court record"XXX. "In 1328 Ralph (spelled Ralf) sued Henry de Colebi for half of the inheritance which was ten messuages; Henry won the suit. However, they were friends afterwards, and when Ralf died he left his estate to Henry XXX. It is thus made plain that Robert was the original "Colby" giving the pedigree as follows.

1. Robert ~~twice~~ time of King John b. about 1080
2. Hugh William & John (named for the King)
3. John William, Clement (~~twice~~ time of Edward I 1272-1307
4. Henry 1265 Ralph, William, Alice, Simon

The village remained in Henry's hands after his removal, also the gallows for any surplus highwaymen.

"The family holding always various homestead villages in those days, held sundry advowsons, or the right to appoint or sell the church livings. The advowsons were very convenient holdings in large families, providing thus a public salary for the younger brothers, who by law of primogeniture or entail had no claim on the parental properties.

Crusading was at its height during Robert de Colebi's time, and it has always been accounted a great honor to descend from a crusader. While the half dozen expeditions were rescuing the Holy Land from Saracens, we learn but little of the Colby vicissitudes, but from the first the line is given, followed by the successive census visitations, and extracts from the parish registers and other records. Some of our forefathers, at least participated in the crusades, as the emblems of the Colby Arms show.

It is interesting to know who was the owner of the other half of the Colby district, and why he was not called a "de Colebi" Walter de Ribbestine evidently had his Manor elsewhere, although I have been unable to locate it, and he was sometimes called a Colebi (Colleby) It is recorded that in 1227 he gave to the monks of St. Hylda, at the request of his wife, Margaret de Colleby three acres of land in Colleby-field and other things.

Robert de Colebe's son Hugh married Margaret Frank daughter of William Frank of Felmingham, whoes arms were: Vert a saltier engrailed or.— Of their children the names of only three sons are learned- John, William and Clement. From John the property descended to his eldest son Henry de Coleby, who married Beatrice Reppes, daughter of Nicholas and Aveline (Baldwin) Reppes.

Ingworth Manor (sometimes spelled Yugworth) including Colby and five other parishes, was some twenty miles north of Norwich, Eng., in the year 860, King Alfred had divided England into "hundreds", (a hundred families) and the Deanery of Ingworth, which is still known as the Hundred of South Erpingham (which is in the Archdeaconry of Norwich) has thirty-six parishes.

At the time of the survey under William the conqueror, Colby was a homestead village belonging with the town of Cawston; and was "ancient demesne" or royal property; held by Prince Harold, Earl of East Angles, before and after the usurped the throne. It remained with the crown till 1226. (Landed property, in ancient times, had three possessors the king, who claimed all ownership, the noble, who held it under the crown, and received its rental; and the knight whose family and laborers occupied the premises.)

In 1226 Henry III granted Ingworth, including Colby and five other parishes to Hurbert de Burgh, Earl of Kent. Afterwards held by William de Calthrop; then William de Burgh, who in 1273 released it to Edward. 1 Edward I granted half to Henry de Ingworth and half to Baldwin.

In 1285 Henry de Coleby received the honor of a charter for freewarren in the county. This was the right to hunt in the royal forrests. William the Conqueror having, been passionately fond of the chase, had restricted all forests, and by law anyone who killed a deer, boar, or hare, had his eyes put out.

Henry de Coleby, by marrying Beatrice de Reppes (grand-daughter of William Baldwin) added a quarter part of Ingworth to the Coleby property. His eldest son and heir, John de Coleby, was thus, when the father died a man of large estate. In 1324, Henry and Beatrice de Coleby were both alive.

In 1327, a general survey of the kingdom was taken from which the following is taken. (translated)

"Evidence gathered from credible sources" "Edward III gives to his eldest son in the twentieth year of his reign an account of stock in which it is "sworn that among the rest, John de Coleby holds in Ingworth under Lady Clare and from the king half a Knights fee, say 200 acres, which was formerly held by Oreline de Reppes. This was settled on his wife at their marriage in 1337.

In 1342, John de Coleby had the other moiety of the advowson and manor from the death of his aunt Alice widow of Peter de Brampton, which he settled on trustees the year following; and 1349 he held the whole. He was knighted in or before 1349, at which date he held the advowson of Ingworth. Till the last century his arms were in that church, remaining there nearly 500 years.

In 1350 he was sheriff and tax-collector of both Norfolk and Suffolk. As the King's high Sheriff, he had a special jurisdiction over the many castles in his district, Norwich, Rising, Bungey, Framlingham etc.

In 1350 the manufacturing of woolen goods started, and princely fortunes were made at this time, and Sir John de Colely, as sheriff, collected the revenues. His sister, Alice, married Sir John de Oxnede, who was Royal Secretary of Wool Customs of London. In 1352 Sir John de Coleby Knight, sold part of his estate in Ingworth, Aylesham, Erpingham, Blicking and Olton to his brother, Sir Ralph de Colby, rector of Brampton, and removed to Norwich. He bought Swardeston-Manor, within four miles of the city and held it till his death, and it is called "Colby-Manor" to this day. In 1364 Sir Ralph died and Sir John de Colby inherited his estate.

Thirty years after the plague in which nine out of every ten died, Sir Thomas Erpingham placed memorials windows in a Norwich Chapel to the memories of fifty Norfolk gentlemen (giving names) who had recently died and left no issue. In this sad list is the name of Sir John de Colby, thus breaking our direct pedigree.

Many points in the following pedigree are at this late day matters of conjectures. Where the old records flatly contradict each other there is little prospect of adjustment now. "It may be disputed, but we will record it, that Sir John de Colby had two sons; Sir John of Swarson, a Knight, and Bishop Thomas a "D.D. although young Sir John may have been the son of one of his brothers, but the new knights coat of arms bears the same golden shells, and the "chevron" of his grandmother Reppes.

Rev. Thomas de Colby was a celebrated author and scholar. He was a member of the Carmelite Monks at White Friars Monastrey, Norwich. This order has produced a vast number of noted writers and men of learning; and before the invention of printing in 1440, when a book cost more than a house--they were the copyists and historians. He was promoted "for his great knowledge" by Richard II, to the bishopric of Lismore and Waterford in Ireland; that was before protestant times. He visited several foreign countries and published many treatises, dying in 1406. The first Sir John de Coleby in 1342.

"A fesse indented between three escallops or, on a ground Az" (which means a crossbar ziggagged between three shells of gold on a ground of blue) The seashells have from the first been the special emblem of the Colby family. The usual meaning of the device was participation in a crusade. This particular kind of shell were found very plentiful on the shores of Palestine, as they came to be an evidence of that journey (See Webster's Dict.)

Sir John de Colby Knight, (the son of Sir John) died about 1392, for in that year John de Colby Esq., is accredited with the ownership of Swardestone Manor. Knighthood is not an hereditary honor; and the son was only an "Esquire."

John de Colby Esq. married Avelyn Pellam daughter of Squire Pellam of Suffolk. It is recorded that he bought Carleton Rode at Buckinham Manor.

Next after John de Colby Esq. Robert Colby of Swarson is probably the successor in line of descent; although the pedigree as given by the subsequent three families, varies ludicrously. It would appear from the will of Robert, the second son had the principal part of the estate instead of John.

The two sons of John and Avelyn (Pellam) Colby were John who married an heiress of high family called Isabel Ives, and was the father of the Brundish branch of Colby's in Suffolk, and Robert who was born about 1420, and married Ursula, niece and co-heir of the Earl of Spencer.

Robert and Ursula had a son, Thomas Colby gent. and heir of Banham, Norfolk. John Colby lived in Burudish, a small parish in Suffolk, some four miles from Framlingham. The old church is of great interest containing not only the precious dust of a number of our ancestors, but the first portraits now existent of any member of the Colby family.

John Colby, eldest son of the above John died without issue, and his brother Thomas came into the heritage. He was twice married. The first wife as Lady Brend (Ursula Rede daughter of Edward Rede of Norwich, Esq) widow of Sir John Brend, knight. Lady Brend married as her first husband, Thomas Garneys of Beccles, who was a very rich man, and Lord of Roos Hall, thus it came to Thomas Colby. He had no children by his first wife, and after her death he married Beatrice Felton and built a new Roos Hall where their children were born. It is a fine old house of red brick, and within is a wonderful old staircase, each step a long deep block of solid oak; and there are lofty apartments. One of the lower rooms retains its huge and pedimented mantel; and several of the chambers have paneled walls; these oaken squares taking the place of older style tapestry hangings.

"Of Sir Huntington Colby of Suffolk, knight, we have been able to find no details, but concerning Francis, brother of our Anthony, we can give some history."

King James though himself a fright was passionately fond of manly beauty, and chose his retinue much by that endowment. The Colby family were of fine presence, and both the men folks and the ladies were constant visitors at Court. Francis Colby held both the positions of "Gentleman of the Privy Chambers and of Serjeant of Arms" before he was twenty four years of age. He married Mary or Margaret Sampson, duaghter and co-heiress of George Sampson, and had one son.

Thomas Colby, Anthony's father, had an extended law suit defending the property against Sir Thomas Gersham, a merchant prince of London and financial advisor to Queen Elizabeth, who claimed to be Lord of Roos Hall through marrying one of the daughters of a previous owner, but he did not establish his claim.

Thomas Colby's will is dated 1588, and he must have died soon after, as widow Beatrice Colby married William Grimston Esq. She was probably again left a widow for in 1593, Roos Hall was taxed to "Mrs. Grimston."

In 1603 Thomas Colby, eldest son and heir, figured in the court of insolvency. The expensive house and extravagant living, following the long law suit, resulted in the loss of the estate, and the general depresion and disappearance of many of the Colbys. Thus, the Colby blood has flowed in gentle veins for all these centuries; but the true royal strain comes on the Felton side. Beatrice Felton's family claim a direct lineage from William the Conqueror, from Charlemagne, and from Hugh Capet. Starting with the 11th generation (omitting the first ten as they are conjectures on the part of J.W. Colby. We have as follows:

Thomas Colby of Beccles, Suffolk County, England, son of John and Alice (Brewse) Colby, married first Lady Brend (widow of Sir John Brend, Knight. By this wife he had no issue. He married as his second wife, Beatrice Felton, daughter of Sir Thomas Felton of Playford, Suffolk Co., Knight, and his wife Mary Gernon, who was the daughter of Sir Richard Gernon, Knight. Thomas Colby built a grand mansion called Roos Hall, which is a fine old house of red brick, where his children were all born. Thomas Colby's will is dated 1588. He died soon after. His widow, Beatrice Colby married 2nd. William Grimston Esq.

Children of Thomas and Beatrice (Felton) Colby of England

I. Thomas M. Amy Brampton
II. Charles died without issue
III. John " " "
IV. Edmond " " "
V. Anthony b. before 1600 came to America (our first American ancestor)
VI. Phillip
VII. Francis M. Margaret Sampson
VIII. Huntington (Knighted in 1616 at Newmarket)
IX. Beatrice M. Edmond Thruston
X. Mary M. John Copuldyke
XI. Penelope M. Sir Walter Ashton
XII. Katherine Unmarried

All taken from "Colby Family History" by James W. Colby

COLBY FAMILY OF AMERICA

Anthony Colby of Boston Cambridge, Ipswich, Salisbury and Amesbury, Massachusetts; son of Thomas and Beatrice (Felton) Colby of Beccles, County Suffolk, England, was born before 1600. He probably

came to America with Winthrop's company in 1630, as he was "of" Boston and a member of the church (his name being recorded as no. 93, beside that of Jerrad Haddon) in that year. He was "of" Cambridge in 1632, where he owned land and buildings, and was still there on May 14, 1634, he took the oath of "freeman" before the General Court in Boston.

James W. Colby in the "Colby Family Hist" states; "The location of Anthony Colby's first house was on the road to Mt. Auburn, where it runs close by the river. The homestead was neither in Cambridge nor Watertown till the line was adjusted two years later. When the Cambridge records began his name was on every page. He built another house by the "Washington Elm," and even later another near "Fresh Pond."

Anthony Colby married, probably about 1631-2 Susannah, believed to be the sister or possibly daughter of Jerrad Haddon—who was probably his closest friend.

In 1633, the Rev. John Cotton, Colton? one of the greatest preachers in England, came to America, settled in Boston and became pastor of the "First Church." On Sept. 8, 1633. (The second Sabbath after he became pastor) he bapitised two baby boys; the first was his own son, who being born on the passage over was called "Seaborn" and the other was John, the son of Anthony and Susannah Colby.

In that same year (1633) a small company of men, headed by John Winthrop Jr. obtained a charter to commence a plantation at Ipswich, and Anthony Colby, with his little family soon moved there, where he was a landholder before 1640 probably going to Ipswich as early as 1637. He moved very soon to Salisbury and was one of the original "first-settlers" being among those to have "lots and proportions granted by the town of Colchester (now Salisbury) in the first division

of 1639. He received other grants of land in 1640 and 1643.

On Mar. 1, 1644 John Sanders of Newbury, for 13 acres of land in Salisbury, on the west side of the river, conveyed to Anthony Colby of Salisbury six acres of meadow land in Salisbury.

April 1, 1644 Anthony Colebie, for six pounds, sold to John Bagley Sr. of Salisbury, weaver, six acres of meadow land in Salisbury.

Mar. 25, 1644, for land in Salisbury, on the west side of the Powow river, he sold to Josiah Codham 4 acres of "upland" also on the west side, bounded by land of William Sargent and the highway.

Mar. 25, 1647, he sold to William Sargent, his home and two-acre lot, lying between the lots of Jerrad Haddon and Henry Brown. He probably removed to the west side of the Powow river at this time.

"Colchester" which was later called Salisbury was on the east side of the river. As some of the early settlers moved across the river to the west side it was at first called Salisbury Newtown--and the east side called Salisbury Oldtown. Some years later the "Newtown" was given the name of Amesbury.

On Mar. 3, 1650 Anthony Colby was made a "townsman" and "commoner" of Salisbury, and was at that ime, one of the largest tax payers. In 1652, when the Great-neck was ordered to be "laid out" as an ox common, "but to continue as an ox and cow common this year as before" etc. Anthony Colby, William Sargent, Phillip Challis and others "entered their country descent."

Feb. 28, 1652, he and Richard Currier were given power to lay out a road from "ye mill-bridge to ye plain that goeth to ye Lyon's Mouth."

That same year, in the division of meadow, the right to "pass over" was reserved to those owning lots adjoining the shore, and Anthony Colby with Jarrad Haddon were appointed to "stake out the paths three rods wide."

Jan. 23, 1654 Thomas Macy sold to Anthony Colby "the house in which Macy now dwelleth, and barn, and the garden near the barn of Roger Eastman, and the well and bucket, and rope belonging to it," for which he (Anthony) agreed to convey to Macy, a ~~mare foal~~ mare foal, at ten pounds; thirty pounds in boards and "courne" twelve to fourteen pounds in money; the rest in pipestaves or hogs head staves, and cattle, all at current prices etc.

Anthony Colby was one of the original "first-settlers" of the "Newtown" 'now Amesbury) where he was made a "commoner" on March 19, 1654, receiving his grant of land in that year; also another grant of land in 1658. At a meeting held Mar. 10, 1660, he with John Hoyt Sr., and Richard Currier were chosen as "Prudentiall-men" to order all affairs of the town given them in writing, and on May 27 of that year, he with Phillip Challis petitioned the General Court in behalf of the "newtown" to be made a district town.

Anthony Colby was a gentleman farmer, well educated industrious and a hard working man, and although he held ~~fre~~ few public offices, it was probably from choice, rather than from any other cause.

He died Feb. 11, 1661--and was buried near his American home, probably in the old graveyard called "Golgotha." (The Josiah Bartlett Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution has the honor of meeting in the famous Macy-Colby house, where nine generations of Colby's had lived. About thirty-four years ago Moses Colby gave custodianship of the house to the chapter for headquarters. It was built

prior to 1654, by Thomas Macy, first town clerk of Amesbury, who was exiled soon after that date for harboring Quakers during a storm--which history is the basis of Whittier's beautiful poem "The Exiles"---During "Old Home Week" in 1904, the D. of R. Chapter assisted in the unveiling of a monument (a large boulder with a bronze tablet) at Golgotha in memory of the "First Settlers." The tablet carries the name of each man--including those of Anthony Colby, Phillip Challis, William Sargent etc.

Apr. 9, 1661 the court ordered the distribution of the estate of Anthony Colby of Salisbury deceased intestate, by Capt. Thomas Bradbury and Capt. Robert Pike, both of Salisbury, widow Susannah Colby received land in her late husband's right in 1662 and 1663.

In 1664, there appears to have been some difficulty between Thomas Macy and the widow of Anthony Colby in regard to the title of the homestead bought in 1654. John Colby (the eldest son) testified that Thomas Macy sold to his father, Anthony Colby, deceased, "the house in which his mother now liveth, with a barn and orchard and an English pasture of an acre at ye Newtown on the west side of the Powow river in Salisbury, for thirty-eight pounds."

Thomas Barnard also testified, that he heard Thomas Macy acknowledge that he had sold the above to Anthony Colby, and that he was paid for it. (This testimony was given at Salisbury Court Apr. 12, 1664. However, Macy did not recover the property, which is in possesstion of the Colby family to this day.

On Dec. 24, 1662 Widow Susannah Colby of Salisbury, for ten pounds in boards, conveyed to her son Isaac Colby, sixty acres of upland in Salisbury, near the Haverhill line, bounded by land of William Sargent, Jarrad Haddon and the common land.

On that same date, for a young mare, she conveyed to her son, Samuel Colby, three acres of land at the "boggie meadow" in Salisbury.

Widow Susannah Colby married as her second husband (about 1664) William Whittridge, a carpenter from Gloucester, whom she survived, and was again a widow in 1669.

On Apr. 11, 1671 Susannah Whittridge, widow, (formerly the wife of Anthony Colby) for ten pounds conveyed to "my son, Isaac Colby, of Haverhill, planter, three acres of fresh meadow in ye town of Salisbury-now dalled Amesbury, at ye back river near Bear Hill, laying on both sides of ye river."

On Apr. 26, 1676, Susannah Whittridge of Amesbury for full payment and satisfaction given by my son Thomas Colby of Amesbury, and for three years service by said Colby since he came to age, conveys to said Colby, one half of all ye land now in my possession sometime of my former husband, Anthony Colby, now deceased. Both corn ground and pasture in Amesbury, bounded by land of Jarrad Haddon; land formerly of William Sargent Sr., now deceased, by the Powow river and by the country Highway; also one half of all the meadow lying by Mr. Carr's joining the meadow of John Bagley, together with about twenty-five acres of upland laying by the burchin meadows, as was granted; bounded by land of James George; Lieut. Phillip Challis; a town highway and by William Osgood's land.

James W. Colby, says; "In 1682, being infirm from age, she sold or deeded her dwelling house and land, bought from Macy to her son, Samuel Colby."

Susannah Whittridge died July 9, 1689. Her oldest living son, Samuel Colby, was administrator to her estate. In the records of

settlement in 1697-1700, is nearly a complete list of her children and grandchildren. She gave her "son Thomas Whittridge some property in her lifetime" (probably a step-son)

Child of Anthony and Susannah (Haddon?) Colby.

I. John bpt. Sept. 8, 1633 m. Jan. 14 1655-6 Frances Hoyt.

II. Sarah b. prob abt. 1635 m. Mar. 6, 1653-4 Orlando Bagley

III. Child " " 1637 died young

IV. Samuel " " 1638-9 m. before 1668 Elizabeth Sargent (dau. of Wm.)

V. Isaac b. July 6, 1640 m. Martha Parrott

VI. Rebecca b. Mar. 11, 1643 m. Sept. 9, 1661 John Williams

VII Mary B Sept 19, 1647 m Sept 23, 1668 Wm Sargent son of Wm

VIII Thomas b. Mar. 8, 1650 m. Sept. 16, 1674 Hannah Rowell.

Ref. "Old families of Salisbury, Newbury and Amesbury" by Hoyt

"The Colby Family History" by J.W. Colby

Vital record of Salisbury and Amesbury, Mass.

Essex Antiquarian Vol. 1-13

Court Rec'd at Salem etc.